



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Johnny Key, Commissioner*

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## **Arkansas Teachers, Librarians to Be Recognized at Declaration of Learning Celebration**

*More than 4,000 Arkansas Students Reached by Program that Encourages Classroom Innovation*

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas Department of Education, Clinton Foundation, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Central Arkansas Library System's Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms will honor 27 Arkansas teachers and librarians for their participation in the second year of the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program.

The recognition event will be held at 10:30 a.m. June 20, 2017, at the CALS Ron Robinson Theater, 100 River Market Ave., Little Rock. The event is free and open to the public. The occasion will celebrate the success of this year's participants, highlight their work, feature presentations by four of the program's educators, include special video remarks from Gov. Asa Hutchinson and provide additional information about the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program.

Arkansas is the first state in the nation to participate in the Declaration of Learning program. Over the last two years, partners have collaborated with 53 Arkansas educators and school librarians who teach art, English language arts and social studies for grades seven through 12. To date, more than 4,000 Arkansas students have participated in classroom lessons and civic engagement projects developed through the program.

The Declaration of Learning program was formed in 2013 as part of an inter-agency educational initiative that began when representatives from 13 national organizations signed the Declaration of Learning. This declaration pledged that these organizations would work with state and local partners to create learning tools for educators and students in middle and secondary education. The U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms is leading the initiative nationally.

Through the program, participating educators use historic art and objects from the organizations' respective collections and best practices in education to develop innovative lesson plans for classroom learning and civic-engagement projects that give students the opportunity to make a difference in the

world. Historic objects and art selected for the program are used to illustrate national and state-based stories that demonstrate the many ways civic engagement was valuable to our nation during its formative years and the importance of this continued focus today.

To learn more about the program and to see a list of year one and year two participants, visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/library-media-services>. For more information about the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program, contact Cassandra Barnett, the ADE program advisor for school libraries, at (501) 682-6576. Media inquiries may be directed to Kimberly Friedman, ADE director of communications, at (501) 683-4788.

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